

Fresh Products Branch Bulletin

FPB 96-2
2/29/96

OROBLANCOS, MELOGOLDS AND HONEY MANDARINS

I. PURPOSE

This bulletin is to set forth and standardize Branch policy when inspecting the following varieties of citrus: Oroblancos, Melogolds, and Honey Mandarins.

II. BACKGROUND

Oroblancos and Melogolds were developed by crossing a pummelo with a white grapefruit. Each variety is as big or bigger than a 32 size grapefruit, generally round to pear shaped, with a slightly thicker rind, smooth yellow skin and firm flesh. The main difference between the two varieties is that the Melogold favors the pummelo parentage in both size and flavor, while the Oroblanco tends to be more of an evenly split hybrid. The Oroblanco also tends to mature earlier than the Melogold.

It was brought to our attention that some citrus packers in California are labeling fruit "Honey Mandarins" and it was unclear whether they should be inspected based on the orange standards or tangerine standards. After further research it was determined that "Honey Mandarin" and "Honey Tangerine" are one in the same.

III. POLICY

To maintain uniformity of inspection procedures and results, the Branch policy is as follows:

The U.S. standards shall not apply to packages that are marked "Oroblanco" or "Melogold," due to the characteristic thick skin and "sheepnose" shape. Therefore, when inspecting Oroblancos or Melogolds, simply describe the objectionable quality and/or condition factors and state under the products heading on the notesheet and certificate: "CITRUS FRUIT in cartons printed 'Oroblanco,'....." If quality is requested, the grade statement should be: "No established U.S. Grade Standards."

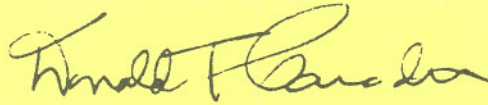
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When packages are marked "Honey Mandarins," the fruit shall be inspected based on the tangerine standards. If the product originates from Florida, the U.S. Standards for Grades of Florida Tangerines shall apply. If the product originates from anywhere else, the U.S. Standards for Grades of Tangerines shall apply.



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